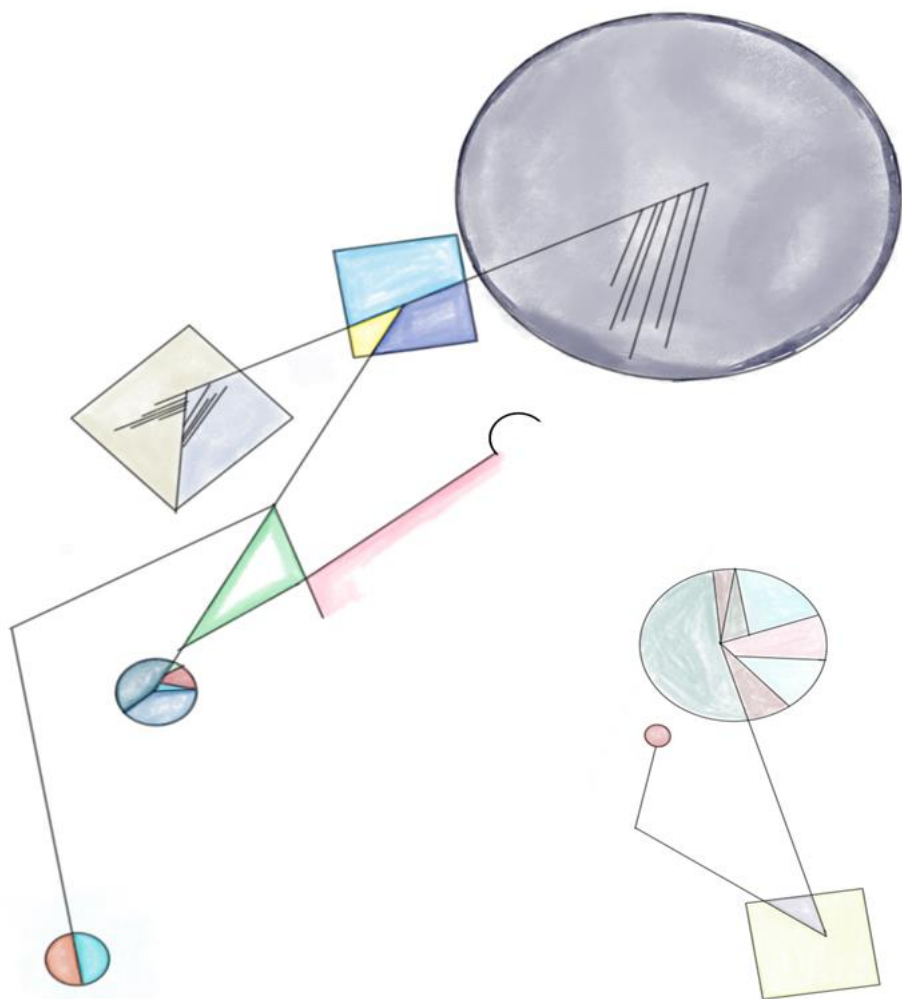


Our Struggle Leads to Unity



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Cover Art: Aquila A. Rose

**You can't have capitalism
without racism**

- Malcolm X

What is Imperialism?

As the system which we live in continues to expand, it needs ways to sustain itself. Once capitalism reaches the stage of development where its labour and resource power grow beyond that of what is available at home, it must fill its needs elsewhere. It is only the natural course of a twisted system. This can be done in two ways—economically or militarily. An example of each being first world countries using third world countries to produce cheap goods for low wages and poor working conditions, and US/NATO aggression in the Middle East concerning oil. Even if you enjoy the benefits of first world capitalism, we must keep in mind that it has a cost on the rest of the world.

Many people think that the age of imperialism and colonialism are behind us, much like the lords and serfs of days of old. However this is untrue, and something the neoliberal leaders don't want you to pay attention to. Yes, Britain, Spain, and France used to have vast empires spanning continents, those kind of direct imperialist actions are dead, only because the ruling class found that they garnered so much resistance from people's liberation struggles that it became too costly to maintain. Britain and France virtually did away with theirs after World War 2, but one of the great powers that came out of that war strong, found new, more covert tactics very effective and have been using them to this day—The United States.

The US seems to be the perfect beast of imperialism. A nation created on the genocide of an entire race, and the enslavement of another. You were once the occupied! Now you are the occupiers! The US has found new and creative ways to spread their destructive and greedy ways around the globe. Look at Saudi Arabia funding terrorists, and Israel running an etho-nationalist state. Both support the US interests in the region, despite their harm to other countries and violent human rights beaches. This in another thing the US is quick to be a hypocrite about, even using it as an excuse to exercise their might where it doesn't belong. Bush in Iraq, Obama in Libya, Trump in Syria, you get the picture. Even if you don't agree, you can still see a clear pattern of devastating and costly wars.

Another common myth is that communists support the resisters to imperialism because we support what they believe in. We do (for the most part) support the DPRK, China, Laos, Vietnam, and Cuba. However, we are not believers in Assad or Iran's ideologies. We simply believe in a nation's right to self determination and freedom from oppression. Like can be seen in Iraq after the war, US involvement just made things worse. As a Maoist, there is a quote I like to use of his that applies to this situation: "Unity, struggle, unity." It means we must ally with those with common interests, like all the anti-fascist forces in World War 2, or the nationalist and communist teaming up during their civil war. Then once we have our victory, we can work out our differences, hopefully in a constructive way. Finally, we can become even closer to unity than ever before.

This quote applies to comrades of all types, unity struggle unity of the left! Another thing people assume is that the US is the world's only imperialist nation in the world. This is very untrue. The EU, Britain, and Canada all practice it to a lesser degree. Even countries that can help oppose imperialism, are guilty of it themselves, like Russia and China. Once again though, unity struggle unity.

-Maoxwell

Queer Liberation, Not Rainbow Capitalism

During the month of June we were bombarded with rainbow logos, cops patrolling pride, and targeted marketing. Superficially, these seem like steps in the right direction-- members of the LGBTQIA+ community becoming more accepted. Under this mask of acceptance and safety is exploitation. Corporations only see consumers as ways to make more money. When a wave of social acceptance hits, corporations never fail to explore the new avenue of money making. This isn't just seen with the LGBTQIA+ community.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, many Irish escaped famine and came to America. Anti-Irish sentiment ran rampant. As some Irish people became wealthier in America, a few St. Patrick's Day celebrations occurred. This, combined with a post-WW11 holiday marketing fervor, was a perfect opportunity for American corporations to accept St. Patrick's Day (and sell items for the holiday). In 2014, American consumers spent \$4.8 billion on St. Patrick's Day merchandise. As soon as a cultural event is minutely popular, businesses exploit it to make money. Though cultures of immigrants may be displayed in stores, no problem is actually fixed.

The 21st century has seen an influx of immigrants from Latin American into the United States, where they face further abuses by both the government and the citizens. Racism and xenophobia run disgustingly rampant. Children are being kept in prison camps. In the beginning of May, corporations push Cinco de Mayo decorations, sales, and "culture". This is exploiting Mexican immigrants who receive none of the profits, but all of the backlash. Furthermore, the images displayed when companies sell decorations for culturally themed events and parties support racist stereotypes.

Before WWII, Jewish immigrants had a trend of celebrating Christmas. In order to bring Jews back from a Christian holiday, Jewish leaders emphasized the cultural significance of Hanukkah. Corporations saw this as an opportunity to make money and began to sell Hanukkah decorations. Today you can see Hanukkah decorations for sale in stores like Target. Does this mean anti-Semitism is fixed? Does this mean Jews are safe in society today? In 2017 anti-Semitic incidents rose 57%. Jews are afraid to display the decorations that are marketed to them. Do not get trapped into the false sense of security corporations try to provide you.

Under capitalism, social justice is futile. The oppressed will continue to be exploited. The intention of social justice --equality for all-- is extremely important; however, corporations and capitalist governments will never stop exploiting and harming the oppressed. Liberation and equality will only be seen after the defeat of capitalism.

Capitalism is killing us, and it must be ended.

-Ezra Docom

